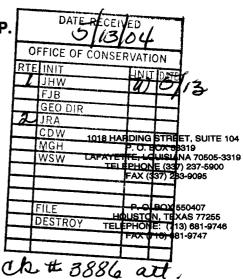
STRAIN, DENNIS & BATES, L.L.P.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

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JAMES C. BATES
PARTNER
BATON ROUGE OFFICE

May 13, 2004

Hon. James H. Welsh Commissioner of Conservation P. O. Box 94275 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

> Re: CIB H RB SUA, North Niblett Field, Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

Application is hereby made on behalf of Noble Energy, Inc. to the Commissioner of Conservation for the calling of a public hearing, after legal notice, pertaining to the following matters relative to the Cibicides Hazzardi Zone, Reservoir B, North Niblett Field, Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana:

- 1. To establish rules and regulations governing the exploration for and production of gas and condensate from the Cibicides Hazzardi Zone, Reservoir B, North Niblett Field, Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana;
- 2. To create a single drilling and production unit for the Cibicides Hazzardi Zone, Reservoir B designated as the CIB H RB SUA, as shown on the plat attached hereto;
- 3. To force pool and integrate all separately owned tracts, mineral leases and other property interests within the unit so created on a surface acreage basis of participation;
- 4. To allow the Commissioner of Conservation to reclassify the reservoir by supplemental order, without the necessity of a public hearing, should the producing characteristics of the reservoir change and evidence to justify reclassification is submitted to and accepted by the Commissioner of Conservation;

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5. To consider such other matters as may be pertinent to the Cibicides Hazzardi Zone, Reservoir B.

The Cibicides Hazzardi Zone, in the North Niblett Field, was previously defined in Office of Conservation Order No. 1175-A, effective October 1, 2003, and is hereby further defined as being that gas and condensate bearing zone encountered between the depths of 13,091 feet and 13,434 feet (electrical log measurements) in the Noble Energy, Inc. - LeBlanc No. 1 Well located in Section 31, Township 10 South, Range 4 West, Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana.

No request for the pre-application conference was received, and accordingly it WILL NOT BE HELD. Please note that the applicant's proposed unit has been revised so as to move the north boundary approximately 310' to the north, resulting in a proposed unit of approximately 250 acres. Should any interested party desire to confer about the revised unit proposal please contact the undersigned and a conference will be scheduled and parties notified thereof.

In addition to furnishing the legal notice to all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties, the applicant will provide for posting of the legal notice and unit plat in a prominent place in the area of North Niblett Field. Additionally, the legal notice will be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the vicinity of North Niblett Field at least fifteen (15) days before the hearing date.

All pertinent data relating to this proposed application may be obtained **AT THE COST OF THE REQUESTING PARTY** from Cutright & Hardwick, P. O. Box 80972, Lafayette, Louisiana, 70598-0972, (337) 232-7756.

Attached hereto and made a part hereof is a plat outlining the revised proposed CIB H RB SUA, in the North Niblett Field, Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana. Also enclosed to the Commissioner of Conservation and District Manager ONLY is a list of Interested Owners, Interested Parties and Represented Parties to whom a copy of this application is being sent. Copies of this list will be provided upon request. A reasonable effort has been made to ascertain the names and addresses of all Interested Owners, Interested Parties or Represented Parties. Also enclosed is our check payable to the Office of Conservation representing the required hearing application fee.

Very truly yours,

STRAIN, DENNIS & BATES, L.L.P.

James C. Bates

JCB/cmf enclosures

cc: Mr. Richard Hudson District Manager

Interested Parties Interested Owners Represented Parties

